

REMARKS

Status of the Claims

Claims 1-9 are pending, of which Claims 5-9 have been withdrawn from consideration.

In the present Amendment, Claims 2 and 3 have been amended for purposes of clarification, including the changes suggested by the Examiner in paragraph 2, on page 2 of the Office Action, and the Examiner's concerns at paragraph 4, on page 2 of the Office Action.

No new matter has been added, and entry of the Amendment is respectfully requested.

Response to the Examiner's Claim Objections

In paragraph 2, on page 2 of the Office Action, Claim 2 was objected to, and the Examiner suggested the following changes: in line 4, "(wherein" is suggested to be changed to -- wherein --; in line 8, "(R¹ represents" is suggested to be changed to -- R¹ represents --; and in line 19, " "form a ring))" is suggested to be changed to -- form a ring --. The Examiner requires appropriate correction thereof.

As stated above, Claim 2 has been amended for purposes of clarity, including the changes suggestions suggested by the Examiner.

In view of the above, Applicants request reconsideration and withdrawal of the Examiner's objection to Claim 2.

The Scope of the Present Claims is Clear and Definite

In paragraph 4, on page 2 of the Office Action, Claims 2 and 3 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite.

As stated above, Claims 2 and 3 have been amended to address the Examiner's concerns in paragraph 4 of the Office Action.

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
U.S. Application No. 10/531,265 (Q87319)

Applicants submit that the scope of Claims 2 and 3 would be clear and definite to one of ordinary skill in the art in light of the specification.

In view of the above, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of Claims 2 and 3 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph.

The Presently Claimed Invention is Patentable over Miyatake

In paragraph 7, on page 5 of the Office Action, Claims 1-4 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Miyatake et al. (*Macromolecules*, 34:2065-2071 (2001)) (hereinafter “Miyatake”).

Applicants respectfully traverse.

The presently claimed invention recites a block copolymer. See also the block copolymer described in the Working and Comparative Examples. In contrast, Miyatake discloses a random copolymer. In this regard, the Examiner is kindly directed to the section of Miyatake entitled “**Synthesis of Copolymers III**,” and in particular, “**Scheme 3**,” which are described in the left column of page 2068 of Miyatake. For at least this reason, Miyatake fails to anticipate or render obvious the present claimed invention.

In view of the above, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of Claims 1-4 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Miyatake.

Conclusion

Reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. In this regard, Applicants respectfully request rejoinder of withdrawn Claims 5-9 according to Patent Office practice under MPEP 821.04(a).

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If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the local, Washington, D.C., telephone number listed below.

The U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is hereby directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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